

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant :	Schwarze, et al.	Art Unit :	3625
Serial No. :	10/676,378	Examiner :	Jason B. Dunham
Filed :	September 30, 2003	Conf. No. :	3243
Title :	INTERFACE FOR GENERATING BUSINESS PARTNERS		

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO JULY 8, 2008 OFFICE ACTION

In the Non-final Office Action mailed July 8, 2008, the prior anticipation rejections based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0046201 were withdrawn, but new rejections were entered for all pending claims 1, 3-15, 17-29, and 31-42. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103**

Claims 1, 3-8, 15, 17-22, 29, and 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Schwarzhoff (US 6,591,260). Of these, claims 1, 15 and 29 are independent claims. The remaining dependent claims 9-14, 23-28, and 37-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwarzhoff in view of Stone (US 2002/0107889).

Applicants submit that each of the independent claims 1, 15 and 29 defines subject matter that is patentable over Schwarzhoff, as do the dependent claims. Applicants' distinguishing of Schwarzhoff from the present claims should not be taken as an admission that Schwarzhoff is properly considered prior art under any sub-section of 35 U.S.C. 102.

First with respect to claim 1, Schwarzhoff does not disclose or suggest "initiating an electronic purchasing process on purchasing computer system having an internal contact directory hosted by a service provider of the purchasing computer system." The Examiner refers to an "entity manager 304" of Schwarzhoff to be the claimed "internal contact directory" of Applicants' claim 1. However, Schwarzhoff's entity manager 304 is not a "contact directory."

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Rather, the entity manager 304 is “an application which may run on any transaction server or trading partner site: the application manages XML document streams and facilitates the opening and tracking of URI based resources which the XML document system requires or references.” (Schwarzhoff, col. 8, lines 24-29). As such, the Office Action's reliance on Schwarzhoff is fundamentally misplaced.

Secondly with respect to claim 1, Schwarzhoff does not disclose or suggest “establishing communication, by the purchasing computing system, with an external contact directory of suppliers and information relating to the suppliers, the external contact directory hosted by an external service provider that is not the service provider of the purchasing computer system.” The Examiner here refers to Schwarzhoff's element directory service 308 to be the claimed “external contact directory” of Applicants' claim 1. This element directory service 308 is also not a “contact directory,” and moreover is not an external contact directory “of suppliers and information relating to the suppliers, as claim 1 recites.” Rather, Schwarzhoff's element directory 308 is a directory registry of schema locations where URNs for schemas are mapped to the corresponding location specific URIs. (See Schwarzhoff, col. 2, lines 47-54). As such, reliance on Schwarzhoff is again flawed because Schwarzhoff does not disclose or suggest a process involving two contact directories, an internal one and an external one.

Further with respect to claim 1, Schwarzhoff does not disclose or suggest “sending a request from the purchasing computing system and to the external contact directory, wherein the request identifies a user selected one of the suppliers included in the external contact directory.” Such cannot be the case, for example, because what the Office Action identifies as the external contact directory is not even a contact directory, as explained above.

Further yet with respect to claim 1, Schwarzhoff does not disclose or suggest “receiving, in a format compliant with a partner interface protocol, a response from the external directory and at the purchasing computing system, the response including information relating to the selected supplier,” “parsing the information in the received response,” “creating, using the information parsed from the response, a new business partner entry in the internal directory, the new business partner entry for the selected supplier,” and “assigning the selected supplier as a source of supply in the purchasing process.” Again, these claimed operations involve internal

and external contact directories, and the components of Schwarzhoff that the Office Action identifies as contact directories are not contact directories.

Accordingly, Schwarzhoff does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of Applicants' claim 1. In addition, the Stone reference cited in connection with various dependent claims does not overcome the deficiencies of Schwarzhoff vis-à-vis of claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 3-14 to be withdrawn.

Independent claim 15 is directed to an article, and independent claim 29 is directed to a system. Claims 15 and 29 are patentable over Schwarzhoff and Stone for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, as are dependent claims 17-28 and claims 31-42. As such, Applicants also request that the rejection of claims 15, 17-29, and 31-42 be withdrawn.

### **Conclusion**

Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-15, 17-29, and 31-42 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

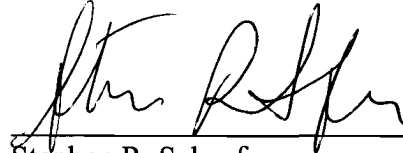
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Please charge deposit account 06-1050 in the amount of \$130 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Date: Nov, 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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